

Amendments to the Claims:

Please AMEND the claims as indicated in the listing of claims below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the Pending Application. The claims are marked to indicate the changes made with deletions indicated by strikethroughs and additions indicated by underlining.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A hydraulic system for a device, the system comprising:
a pump including first and second inlet/outlet ports, the pump ~~operating~~operative to ~~reversibly~~ move the device between a first position and a second position; and
a hydraulic cylinder in fluid communication with the pump and including a rod end coupled with one of the first and second ports and a piston end coupled with the other one of the first and second ports.

Claim 2 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the device comprises a ramp.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The system of claim ~~2~~1 wherein the first position comprises a ~~fully~~-stowed orientation and the second position comprises a ~~fully~~-deployed orientation.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The system of claim 2 wherein the ramp comprises a ~~vehicle~~ wheelchair ramp.

Claim 5 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the pump comprises a bi-directional displacement pump.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a reservoir in fluid communication with the pump;
a first valve coupling the pump with the rod end and, ~~the first valve~~ in fluid communication with the reservoir; and
a second valve coupling the pump with the piston end, ~~the second valve~~ and in fluid communication with the reservoir.

Claim 7 (Original): The system of claim 6 wherein the first and second valves comprise three-way valves.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The system of claim 7 wherein the first and second three-way valves ~~are further comprise a normally biasing~~ biased in a position to provide a hydraulic loop between the cylinder and the reservoir, the loop independent from the pump.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The system of claim 8 wherein the first and second three-way valves comprise a spring configured to bias the valves~~normal biasing comprises a spring~~.

Claim 10 (Original): The system of claim 7 wherein the first and second three-way valves comprise spring-biased shuttle valves.

Claim 11 (Original): The system of claim 7 wherein at least one of the first and second three-way valves comprises an electrically-actuated valve.

Claim 12 (Original): The system of claim 11 wherein the electrically-actuated valve comprises a solenoid valve.

Claim 13 (Original): The system of claim 7 wherein the first and second three-way valves comprise electrically-actuated valves.

Claim 14 (Original): The system of claim 13 wherein the electrically-actuated valves comprise solenoid valves.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The system of claim 2 further comprising a safety ~~means~~ mechanism preventing configured to prevent one or more of a stowing and deployment operation of the ramp.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The system of claim 15 wherein the safety ~~means~~ mechanism comprises one or more of a first relief valve inline between the pump and the rod end and a second relief valve inline between the pump and the piston end, the first and second relief valves independently adjustable to regulate ~~the a~~ a pressure at the respective ends.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The system of claim 6 further comprising:
a first restriction ~~means~~ mechanism coupling the rod end with the reservoir for throttling a hydraulic fluid return flow during a first gravity-movement stage of device operation; and

a second restriction ~~means~~mechanism coupling the piston end with the reservoir for throttling a hydraulic fluid return flow during a second gravity-movement stage of operation.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The system of claim 17 wherein the first and second restriction ~~means~~mechanisms comprise restriction orifices.

Claim 19 (Original): The system of claim 18 wherein the restriction orifices are disposed within a manifold in fluid communication with the pump.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The system of claim 17 wherein the first restriction ~~means~~mechanism is disposed between the rod end and the first three-way valve and the second restriction ~~means~~mechanism is disposed between the piston end and the second three-way valve.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The system of claim 1 further comprising a second hydraulic cylinder in fluid communication with the pump and ~~configured to cooperate~~cooperating with the first hydraulic cylinder.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The system of claim 2 wherein the pump is operative~~operates~~ relative to the orientation of the ramp such that the pump moves the ramp from a ~~fully~~-stowed orientation to a generally vertical orientation and from a ~~fully~~-deployed orientation to a generally vertical orientation.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The system of claim 22 further comprising a ~~sensing means~~sensor in communication ~~linked~~ with the pump for selectively actuating and deactuating the pump relative to the orientation of the ramp.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): The system of claim 23 wherein the ~~sensing means~~sensor comprises a cam and switch arrangement.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): The system of claim 22 further comprising a gate valve disposed between the pump and the cylinder, the gate valve ~~operating~~operative relative to the orientation of the ramp for facilitating ramp movement in an active stage of operation..

Claim 26 (Original): The system of claim 25 wherein the gate valve is manually operated.

Claim 27 (Original): The system of claim 25 wherein the gate valve is electrically operated.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The system of claim 17 further comprising:

a first gate valve in parallel with the first restriction ~~means~~mechanism, the first gate valve ~~operating~~operative to bypass the first restriction ~~means~~mechanism during a stage of active deployment; and

a second gate valve in parallel with the second restriction ~~means~~mechanism, the second gate valve ~~operating~~operative to bypass the second restriction ~~means~~mechanism during a stage of active stowage.